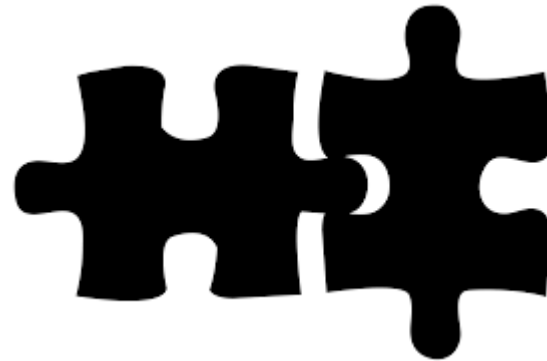


C O M M U N I T Y

Placeholder text for the word COMMUNITY.



Connected?



Disconnected?

or

Wards

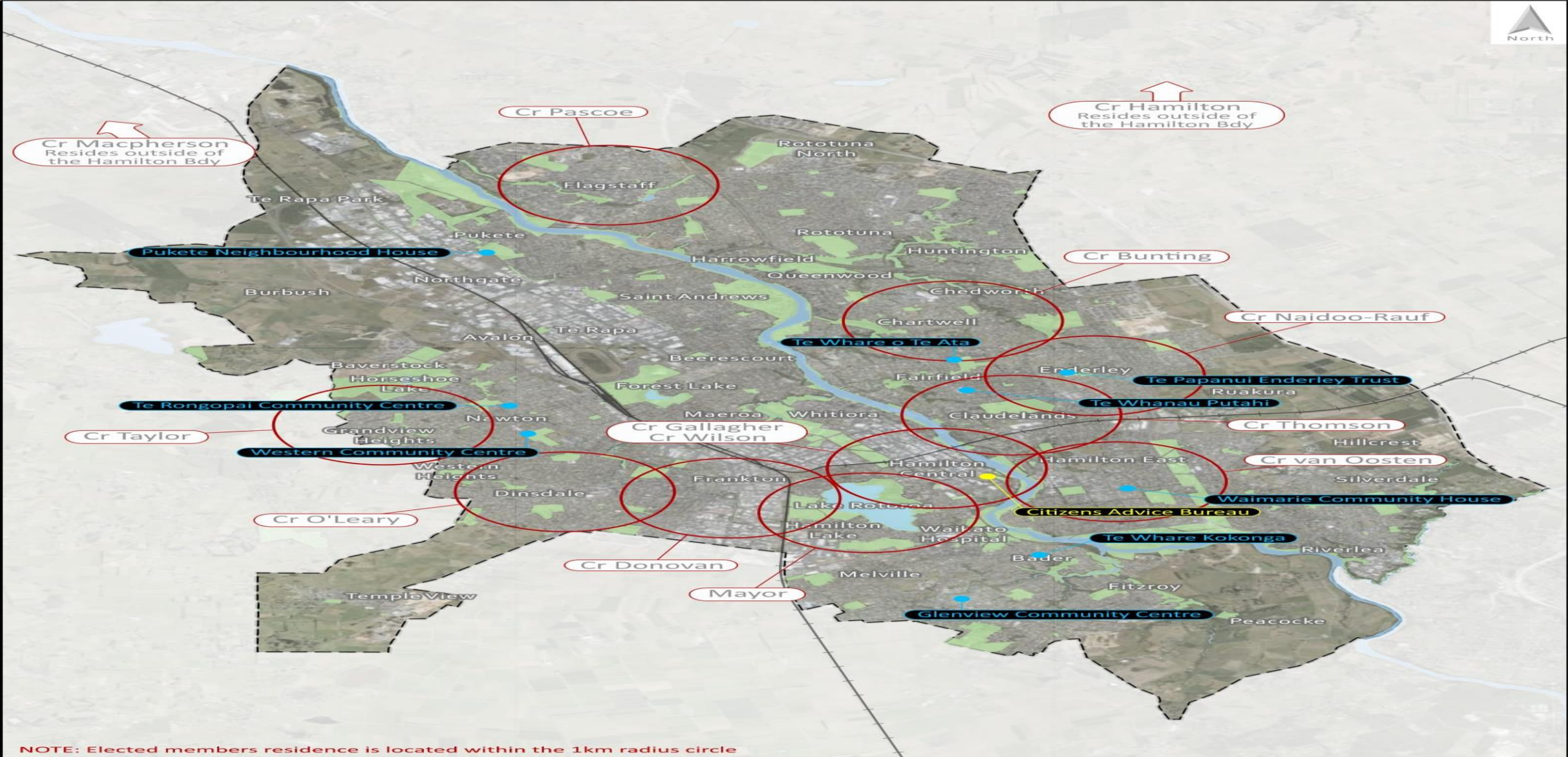
The River Unites US

The Wards Divide US



Citizens: Live on the East, Work on the West

Current Representation



NOTE: Elected members residence is located within the 1km radius circle

Hamilton Community House, Citizen Advice Bureau and Elected Member Residence Locations

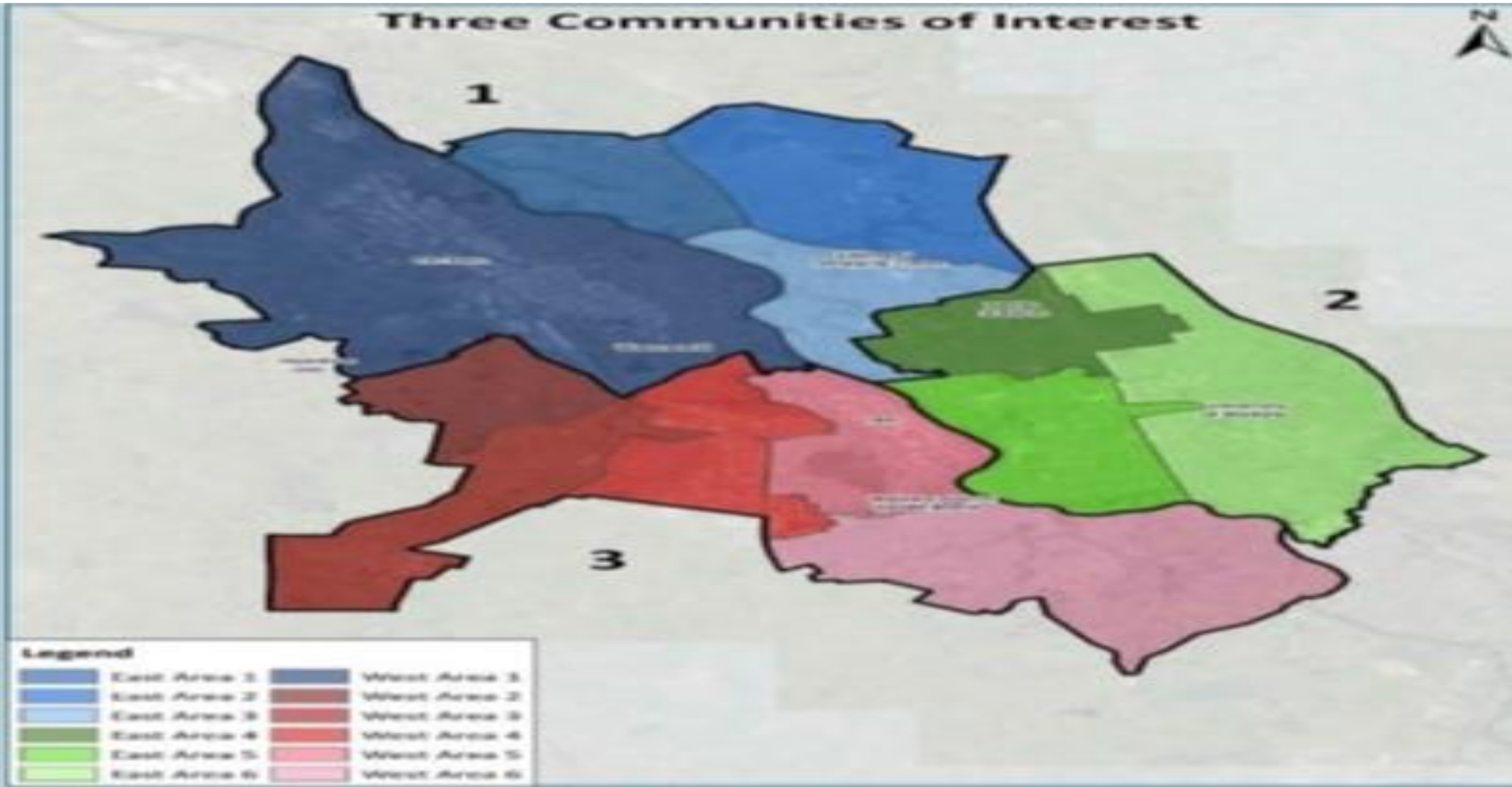
Issues with Current Representation

- One third of elected councillors (4) live outside their ward
- No regular Councillor conversation with communities or neighbourhoods
- Too many Council meetings and briefings exclude public input
- Staff have months to prepare material, and rely too much on 'tick-the-box' methods and spin.
- Councillors have weeks to discuss
- We, the people, get a few minutes to present and no conversation.
- We have become convinced that Councillors do not LISTEN to us, the people.
- We seek a return to robust democracy



Restore Democracy

Three Communities of Interest



Community Board Solution

- Legal Framework exists
- Board members elected by community
- Politicians provided with regular meet and greet time
- Opportunity for rigorous debate

- Ward St fiasco averted
- Local community involved in early design of services and infrastructure
- Smoother pathway for decisions
- Four well-beings planted into community thinking

- Neil Tolan, western community centre representation review (12 August 2021) advocates for community boards
- Sir Brian Elwood advocates for community Boards (1989)
- Kerry Marshall (President LGNZ) confirms that community boards make a difference (1997)
- Georgina Beyer describes community boards as a VITAL link in the democratic chain

Mike Reid: **New Zealand needs community boards more than ever** (August 2021)

The future of community boards is tied up with the future of community governance overall and the way in which citizens are able to have a meaningful say about what happens in their streets and their neighbourhoods.

This is perhaps more important today given the growth of false truth narratives and willingness of authoritarian leaders to exploit social division and feelings of powerlessness.

In fact, as the country's population grows and becomes more diverse, and the more that central governments find themselves unable to address the critical issues facing our communities, the greater the need for more active and effective democratic engagement at a community level.

Proposal

- 1. That Hamilton City become ONE Ward;**
- 2. That Community Boards be established as recommended by CEO Community Waikato;**
- 3. That the Boards be established in Hamilton for the 2022 Local Government Elections;**
- 4. That Public Consultation decide the final boundaries for each Board;**